

in the November general election but observers here do not regard them as a serious threat to either Mr. Byrd or Mr. Spong. "Young Harry," as he is respectfully known here, was reported to be bitterly disappointed at the apathy and defection of many conservative-leaning Virginians.

This pattern was clear in the strong bid made against the younger Byrd by Armistead L. Boothe, 58, of Alexandria, a former State Senator and "anti-organization" campaigner. In losing to Mr. Byrd, Mr. Boothe made a number of unexpected inroads into traditionally safe conservative Byrd organization territory.

At a news conference today, Mr. Spong renewed his campaign pledge to operate independently of the political organization of former Senator Byrd.

STAT appearing in his home city Portsmouth with two Negro campaign workers, Mr. Spong declared that "if I am elected to the Senate, Virginia will have balanced representation—the populous urban areas will be represented."

Senator Byrd Jr. lives in Winchester, a city of about 16,000 persons, near the Byrd family's vast apple orchard holdings.

The struggle for control of the party is expected to focus on the future role of Sydney S. Kellem of Virginia Beach, the formerly influential state Democratic chairman and a supporter of Senator Robertson in the primary fight.

Mr. Kellem was unable to carry his own territory for Mr. Robertson or for the younger Byrd, a fact that seemed to have whetted the appetites of Mr. Spong's aides for a strongly independent stand.

MANSFIELD PONDER'S A SECRET SESSION

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 13—Majority Leader Mike Mansfield may ask the Senate to go into executive, or secret, session tomorrow when the bill to expand supervision of the Central Intelligence Agency is reported to the floor.

When the Senate goes into an executive session, all the galleries—including the press galleries—are cleared. Aides of the Senators and staff members of Senate committees are not permitted on the floor. No record of the debate is kept by the official reporters.

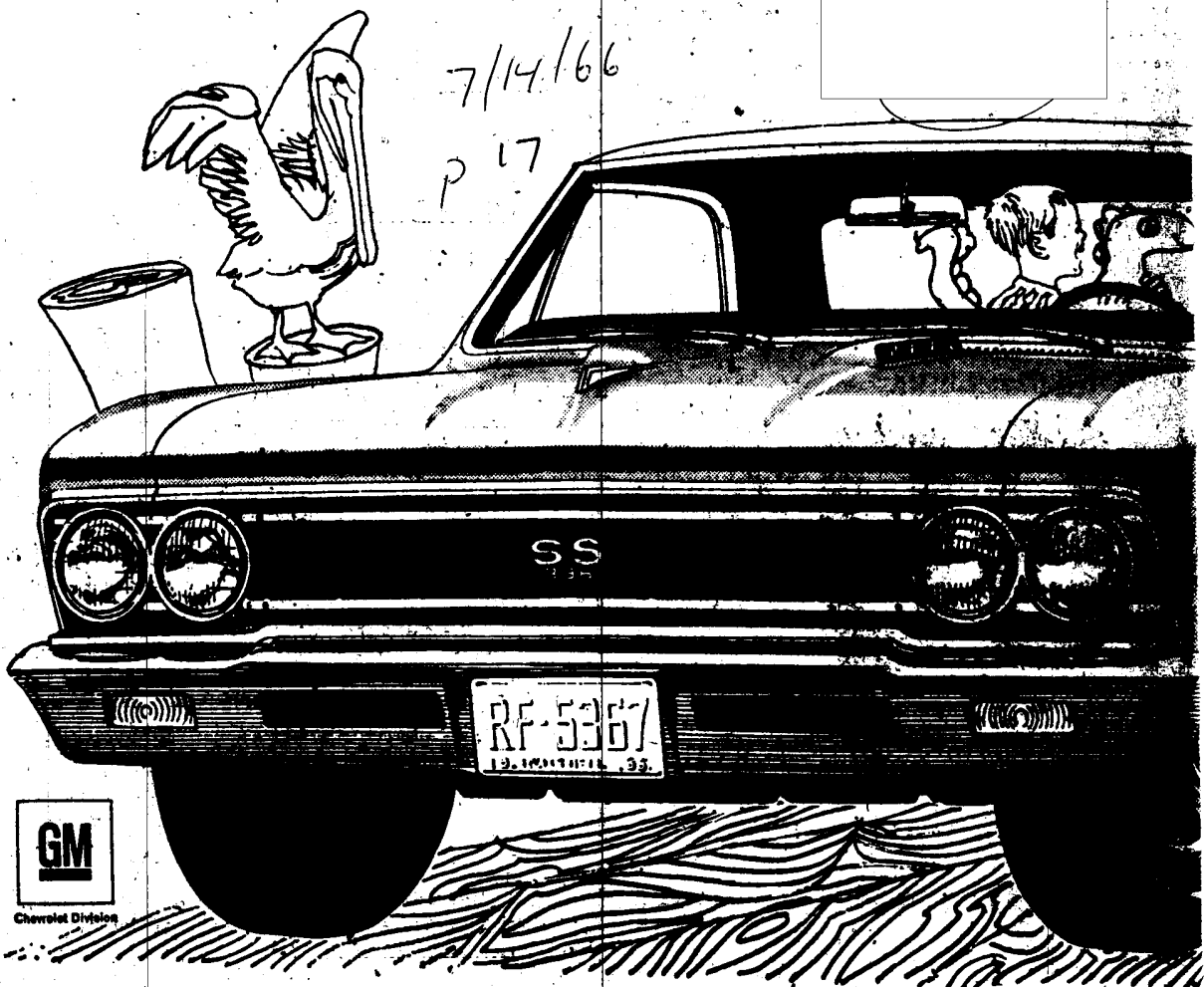
Except in time of war, it is very rarely that the Senate goes into such a session.

Senator Mansfield was considering late today asking for such a session in the expectation that the controversial bill would set loose what he called "a bloodletting," and in the hope of preventing a blow-by-blow reporting of the debate.

The debate may be all the more bitter because the commanding figure of Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, feels that his personal power and prestige are at stake.

A majority of the Foreign Relations Committee favor expansion of the watchdog committee because they believe that the C.I.A. has a strong influence on foreign policy.

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